

CE Captain Selected for Sijan Award

Capt Michael A. Geer, a civil engineer at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, is a recipient of the 2000 Lance P. Sijan U.S. Air Force Leadership Award. The Sijan award recognizes people assigned to wing-level organizations and below who have demonstrated outstanding leadership abilities. It is presented annually to four Air Force members representing the senior and junior officer and enlisted corps.

"I was surprised when I was nominated by the squadron, let alone winning at Air Force," said the 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron winner in the junior officer category. "There are such tremendous people doing great things at this base and in this command." The captain's supervisor, though, wasn't surprised by his selection.

"We've had a huge construction and design program during the past couple of years. Without Capt Mike Geer's superb management skills, we would not be able to support additional initiatives such as the Rhein Main Transition Program and the Military Family Housing Renovation Project," said Udo Stuermer, engineering flight commander. "The RMT program alone is a 333 million Deutsche Mark program consisting of 23 projects which have to be designed by September 2001 and constructed by June 2005. The MFH initiative is calling for an improvement of all unrenovated housing units by 2010. Here we're talking about another investment in the amount of \$160 million."

Geer is currently the design and construction chief for the 52nd CES. "That means that just about anything built or repaired by someone other than an Air Force unit is done in my section," said Geer. "Our big efforts right now are the design for the Rhein Main mission transfer, a water project and family housing renovations."

There are 29 people working in Geer's section — ranging from engineers and project inspectors to surveyors and drafts people. The group is about evenly split between military and civilians.

Geer graduated with a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and was commissioned through its Reserve Officer Training Corps program. Through an Air Force Educational Delay program, he went straight to graduate school for a master's degree in civil engineering at Penn State, and then back to MIT for doctoral studies. He entered active duty before completing his doctorate, but still hopes to finish it. Geer is married and has a 1 year-old daughter. "My family supports me much more than I deserve," he said. *(From an Eifel Times report by 1st Lt Angela Johnson, 52nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs)*



Capt Michael Geer (right) and SSgt Sandra Butler, 52nd CES, review sight plans for new water storage tanks at Spangdahlem AB, Germany. Geer is a 2000 Lance P. Sijan Air Force Leadership Award recipient. *(Photo by SrA Esperanza Berrios)*

NSPE Air Force Engineers of the Year

The National Society of Professional Engineers has named the winners of its "Air Force Engineer of the Year" awards.

Lt Col Jared A. Astin, Headquarters Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence, Brooks Air Force Base, Texas, and Larry W. Smith, 45th Civil Engineer Squadron, Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Fla., were among 34 engineers from 14 federal agencies to be recognized by the society.

Colonel Astin, chief of AFCEE's Environmental Restoration Division, managed the Air Force's largest and most politically sensitive environmental cleanup program at the Massachusetts Military Reservation. AFCEE officials said that Astin has maintained a close working relationship with key community members and federal and state regulators to strike a balance between purely technical solutions and the desires of local communities around the installation.

Larry Smith is an environmental engineer in the 45th CES' CCAFS detachment. Among his recent achievements, he managed a \$5 million safe drinking water project at a CCAFS satellite launch facility from

research through construction. He also saved the Air Force \$2 million on a landfill closure project and developed a vegetative barrier system research pilot project to reduce groundwater contamination by planting trees. Awards were presented during an Engineers Week luncheon Feb. 22 at Ft. Myer, Va. (*HQ AFCEE Public Affairs contributed to this report.*)

2000 Air Force General Thomas D. White Environmental Awards

Outstanding Air Force efforts to preserve and enhance the environment were recognized recently with the presentation of the fiscal year 2000 General Thomas D. White Environmental Awards. The ceremony was held May 1 at the Pentagon.

This year marked a change in the environmental awards program. Instead of presenting awards in 20 categories annually, as had been done in the past, awards were presented in 10 categories this year with the second 10 to be presented next year, making the awards biannual. This change was driven by the same change made in the Department of Defense Environmental Security Awards. All White Award winners (with two exceptions where no corresponding category exists) go forward as Air Force nominees to the DoD award competition.

Environmental Quality Award
(Industrial)
Vandenberg AFB, Calif. (AFSPC)

Environmental Quality Award
(Overseas)
Aviano AB, Italy (USAFE)

Environmental Quality Award
(Reserve Component)
Minneapolis-St. Paul Air Reserve Station, Minn. (AFRC)

Natural Resources Conservation Award (Large Base)
Eglin AFB, Fla. (AFMC)
Honorable Mention — Patrick AFB/Cape Canaveral AS, Fla. (AFSPC)

Cultural Resources Management Award (Installation)
611th Air Support Group, Elmendorf AFB, Alaska (PACAF)
Honorable Mention — 56th Range Management Office, Luke AFB, Ariz. (AETC)

Cultural Resources Management Award for Individual/Team Excellence
Vandenberg AFB, Calif. (AFSPC)

Restoration Award (Installation)
Offutt AFB, Neb. (ACC)

Pollution Prevention Award
(Non-Industrial)
Offutt AFB, Neb. (ACC)

Pollution Prevention Award
(Individual/Team)
R. Michael Willard, Patrick AFB/Cape Canaveral AS, Fla. (AFSPC)

National Environmental Policy

Act Award

Patrick AFB/Cape Canaveral AS, Fla. (AFSPC)

Brigadier General Henry J. Stehling

1918 – 2001

Brigadier General (ret.) Henry J. “Fritz” Stehling, USAF, died Feb. 2 at a Fort Worth, Texas, hospital. He was 82 years old.

General Stehling served Air Force civil engineering from its beginnings in the late 1940s through the height of the Vietnam War. His military career began in 1942, when he graduated from Officer Candidate School (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers). He served as an instructor and a company commander during World War II.

In 1948 he transferred to the newly formed Air Force, holding positions at Tyndall and Pinecastle Air Force Bases, Fla., and Randolph AFB, Texas. From March 1954 until June 1955, General Stehling served as chairman of a field group for the U.S. Air Force ad hoc board that developed integrated management controls within civil engineering functional areas that were later implemented Air Force-wide.

His next assignments were overseas tours as deputy district engineer for the Joint Construction Agency at Nancy and Paris, France, and staff engineer for Seventeenth Air Force at Wheelus Air Base, Tripoli, Libya.

He returned to the United States in 1958, attending Air War College at Maxwell AFB, Ala. His next assignments were in the Directorate of Civil Engineering, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, as deputy chief, Programs Division then chief, Base Maintenance Division.

General Stehling is perhaps best known for the outstanding support he provided to field engineers during the Vietnam War when he served as Director of Civil Engineering, Headquarters Pacific Air Forces, from 1964 to 1967. His last two assignments were as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Civil Engineering at Air Training Command and as the Director, Real Property Maintenance Directorate, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Installations and Logistics), Washington D.C.

The general retired from active duty in August 1970. He was the recipient of The Society of American Military Engineers Newman Medal in 1961.